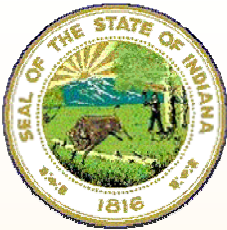


# SENATOR LARRY LUTZ



## RESIDENCE

5530 Whippoorwill Drive  
Evansville, IN 47712  
812-424-9605

## STATEHOUSE

200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
800-382-9467  
317-232-9526

## ONLINE

S49@IN.gov  
www.IN.gov/S49

### Inside this issue . . .

Daylight Saving Time	2
Election law changes	2
Education issues	2
Economic development	3
Legislative initiatives	3
Easy access	4

Dear Friends:

*The first regular session of the 114<sup>th</sup> Indiana General Assembly contained both accomplishments and disappointments for all Hoosiers. The most important issue considered this year was the establishment of a new state budget for the next two years. Contained in House Enrolled Act 1001, the \$24.3 billion appropriations plan will purportedly balance the state's budget without increasing any statewide taxes. However, my greatest concern is that the plan balances the state budget at a very high cost to public schools around the state.*

*One reason I voted against this budget is because it cuts funding to 142 school corporations across the state, while it potentially raises local property taxes by as much as \$850 million and simultaneously places a freeze on state property tax relief.*

*Under the budget's new school funding formula, only one percent of additional funding is provided for schools in the first year of the biennium and 1.1 percent in the second. This is well short of the 2.75 percent schools will need to keep up with inflation and the costs associated with enrollment growth.*

*This budget and school funding formula will mean laying off thousands of teachers, larger class sizes, fewer opportunities for expanded curriculums and less of a chance for our public schools to cope with the burden of unfunded state and federal mandates that are continually placed on them.*

*The budget also fails to adequately fund state universities, which in turn will cause tuition costs to rise. It underfunds the projected growth in Medicaid costs and reduces funding dedicated to local communities for road improvements.*

*Although I was very disappointed with the outcome of the state budget, several important initiatives were enacted and are discussed inside this newsletter. If I can provide you with more information on issues considered by the legislature or assist you with problems or concerns you have relating to state government, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.*

## What time is it ? Daylight Saving Time passes

This year the General Assembly passed legislation requiring all of Indiana to observe Daylight Saving Time .

Daylight Saving Time is the practice of setting clocks forward one hour ahead of the standard time at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April and moving the clock back an hour on the last Sunday of October. The purpose of Daylight Saving Time is to adjust work and school hours to summer's longer days.

The General Assembly cannot change Time Zones. Only the U.S. Department of Transportation can move Indiana to the Central or Eastern Time Zone.

## In the classroom

**HEA 1001** includes a provision that changes the age cutoff date for kindergarten enrollment from July 1 to August 1. Beginning in 2006, children who are age five on or before August 1 will be able to enroll in kindergarten.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, **SEA 200** provides that all students entering high

school will be required to take the Core 40 curriculum. This includes additional math and science classes that will be required course work to be admitted to a state-operated four-year college or university. Students would be allowed to opt out of Core 40 with pa-

rental permission and be eligible to obtain a general diploma.

Maintaining a safe and productive environment in Indiana schools is addressed under **SEA 285**. The bill combats school violence and will help edu-

cators identify and prevent bullying. This act legally defines bullying as repeated hostile acts over

a period of time, requires that all Indiana school corporations implement safe-school committees and provides statewide training opportunities to help teachers and administrators prevent and intervene in bullying situations.



## At the polls

### *Changes to Indiana's election laws*

Several changes were made to Indiana's election laws that will be in effect for the next election in May 2006.

More restrictions on absentee voting have been put in place under **SEA 15**. I voted against this bill which provides that when applying for an absentee ballot, voters will have to state the specific reason for voting absentee and have a reasonable expectation of being unable to vote during the entire twelve hours the polls are open.

I also did not support **SEA 483** which will require voters to show government-issued photo identification to be permitted to vote. If a voter cannot produce identification at the polls, they may vote a provisional ballot, which is a ballot that is set aside and may be counted as long as proper procedures are followed. To have the provisional ballot counted, the voter must appear before the county election board before the Monday following the election and present proper identification. If the voter does not have an accepted photo ID because the voter is indigent, the voter can sign a document attesting to this and have their ballot counted.

However, if the voter does not provide the appropriate documentation to the county election board, the provisional ballot will not be accepted. The ID requirement is waived for nursing home residents who vote at a polling place within the nursing home. I would like to note that litigation is pending regarding questionable constitutional aspects of this legislation.

**SEA 483** also requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to provide a free ID card to an individual who does not have a drivers license and will be 18 years old by the next election. **HEA 1407** requires all full-service license branches to be open on the day before an election and on election day to issue drivers licenses and ID cards to ensure voters are able to obtain proper identification.

Under **SEA 419**, military and overseas voters will be able to email their ballots through a program being administered by the U.S. Department of Defense. These voters will also be able to submit a single application by fax that would serve as both voter registration and an absentee ballot application.

**Valid identification includes a state issued drivers license, an ID card issued to those who do not drive, a passport or a military identification. No alternative forms of ID will be accepted.**

## Economic development

### *Lawmakers spur economic development efforts*

As we work to strengthen Indiana's economy and create new, good-paying jobs, much of the focus of this legislative session was directed at modernizing the state's economic development efforts.

One of the first actions taken by the General Assembly was passage of **HEA 1003** which created the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. This new public-private partnership replaces the Indiana Department of Commerce as the state's lead economic development agency and will provide the state with more flexibility in attracting and retaining business.

At the same time, several other new state agencies were created to support important aspects of the state's overall economic agenda including the Department of Tourism, the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Rural



Affairs and the Office of Community Development.

Action was also taken to add new tools to the state's economic development toolbox. Among the many initiatives approved was legislation to allow counties to join forces to compete for economic development projects, the establishment of Global Commerce Centers to help Hoosier businesses better compete internationally, the streamlining of worker

training programs, the expansion of several research and development tax credits as well as the reauthorization of various state and local job creation incentives.

*Indiana is home to some of the largest insurance, pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies in the nation.*

## Lutz's initiatives become law

Several of my key initiatives have been signed into law by the governor. A few of these include:

★ **SEA 217** increases speed limits on interstate highways from the current limit of 65 mph to 70 mph for passenger vehicles and 60 mph to 65 mph for vehicles (other than buses) weighing more than 26,000 pounds. Additionally, the speed limits for four lane divided highways outside of urban areas will be increased from 55 mph to 60 mph.

★ **SEA 304** provides tuition relief to the children and spouse of Indiana National Guard members who are killed on active duty. Qualified survivors would be exempt from payment of tuition and mandatory fees at a state educational institution. An individual's eligibility for the tuition exemption would be vested exclusively with the Indiana military department.

★ **SEA 332** requires that schools display an American flag in each classroom and allows students time to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence.

★ **SEA 574** lowers the distribution of a portion of the Vanderburgh County Innkeeper's Tax to the Vanderburgh County Convention Center Operating Fund from 2 percent to 1 percent starting in January 2010.

★ **HEA 1080** names space between the two state office buildings to the west of the State Capitol the "Robert D. Orr Plaza" and names the Great Hall of the Indiana State Museum the "Governor Frank O'Bannon Great Hall."



*Senator Lutz with his Legislative Assistant Charlotte Lemieux.*



**State Senator Larry Lutz**  
 200 West Washington Street  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785  
 Toll-free: 800-382-9467  
 E-mail: S49@IN.gov

PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
 PERMIT NO. 8644



**Explore Indiana!**

Indiana has many amazing destinations. Discover all that our state has to offer this summer!

**Contact:**

1-888-ENJOY-IN  
[www.enjoyindiana.com](http://www.enjoyindiana.com)



## **Easy access to your government**

**For general information call 800-457-8283 or visit [www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov)**

Información de Indiana	888-855-3838
State Information TDD	800-743-3333
Indiana Senate	800-382-9467
Governor's Office	317-232-4567

**Community Action Agency**

(Coordinates energy, housing & other assistance for low-income Hoosiers)

Community Action Program	812-425-4241
--------------------------	--------------

**Area Agency on Aging**

(Provides case management, information & referral services for persons who are aging or developmentally disabled)

Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging, Inc.	800-253-2188
--	--------------

**Health & Human Services**

Senior Health Insurance Help	800-452-4800
Long Term Care Complaints	800-246-8909
Family Health Helpline	800-433-0746
Medicaid Hotline	800-457-4584
Medicare Hotline	800-633-4227

Adult Protective Services	800-992-6978
Child Protective Services	800-562-2407
Victim Assistance Hotline	800-258-0993
Consumer Protection	800-382-5516
No Call List	888-834-9969
WorkOne Vincennes	812-882-8770
WorkOne Evansville	812-424-4473

**Online Services**

**BMV Express**

[www.in.gov/bmv/bmvexpress/](http://www.in.gov/bmv/bmvexpress/)

**Assistance with prescription drugs**

[www.in.gov/fssa/hoosierx/](http://www.in.gov/fssa/hoosierx/)

[www.rxforindiana.org/](http://www.rxforindiana.org/)

**Search college grant and award information**

[www.in.gov/ssaci/](http://www.in.gov/ssaci/)

**Get state forms**

[www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/catchoic.html](http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/catchoic.html)

**Business assistance**

[www.Biz.IN.gov](http://www.Biz.IN.gov)

**Get hunting, trapping and fishing licenses**

[www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/licensing/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/licensing/)